



January 2008

We are now at war in excess of six years and I commend you for all you've accomplished and your daily efforts to save lives through accident prevention. But bottom line—we CAN and MUST do better.

While you might expect that our extended operations are stretching and stressing our forces, creating an environment conducive to increased accidental losses, that is not what we see. In theater, we see numerous successes as Leaders exert 24/7 use of overt command and control of Soldiers' lives. However, when these Soldiers return to home station and the reins loosen and oversight decreases, we see off-duty accidents outpacing on-duty losses. This is unacceptable since the standards never changed.



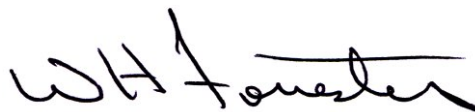
The beginning of a new year presents us with the possibility to set goals and objectives. For 2008, let us set goals giving us a unique opportunity to build on the successes of the previous two years, raising the bar of excellence to rates unsurpassed in any in our last decade. To accomplish this, I recommend the following goals:

- Embrace safety as a way of life.
- Create a positive safety climate and culture within every organization, keeping Soldiers, civilians and Families a part of that formation.
- Reach out to Families and include them as part of the solution.
- Enable Soldiers and Leaders to assess their personal and subordinates' risky behavior, preventing the next accident.
- Get involved, stay engaged and make a POSITIVE difference.

Families undoubtedly have a direct impact on Soldiers. Gen. Casey, CSA, reiterated the importance of Families, emphasizing that much of a Soldier's strength comes from their Family. The newly released Family Engagement Kit (<https://crc.army.mil/familyengagement>), coupled with Leader engagement, prepares and encourages Family involvement, ultimately raising

awareness of that which endangers us, thus reducing accidental losses. The Family Engagement Kit serves to harness the power of Families, garnering their assistance as we endeavor to achieve OUR goals.

I commend each of you as we continue taking steps toward decreasing accidental losses. I wish you and your Family a happy and safe 2008 and ask that you continue making our "Army Safe and Army Strong"!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W H Forrester". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "W" and "H" at the beginning.

WILLIAM H. FORRESTER
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Commanding